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Thank you for your comments and suggestions regarding our last issue. If you know someone who would like to be added to the distribution list, please mail anne.trinh@sdcounty.ca.gov with subject heading: "AI Update."

Since April 2007, ten additional countries have reported outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry and/or wild birds. Though it has not been covered with as much frequency as it has in the past by the media, bird flu still poses a significant risk for animal and human populations. In this issue, we would like to present and discuss possible routes of introduction of the virus into the Western Hemisphere.

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Office of the County Veterinarian Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

5555 Overland Ave Ste 4103
San Diego CA 92123

858-694-2838
sdcountyvet.org

**Dead Bird Reporting and
Bird Flu Information Hotline**
888-551-INFO (4636)



Office of the County Veterinarian, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Current Situation

- 60 countries affected; 25 countries reporting outbreaks since January 2007 (OIE)
- 201 human deaths from 329 confirmed cases (WHO)
- Confirmed human-to-human transmission in multiple countries (Yang et al, EID)
- No cases of H5N1 in animals or humans in the Americas

Routes of Introduction

There are three main ways H5N1 can enter the U.S.

1. Infected birds or bird products introduced through ***unregulated or illegal trade***
2. Infected birds or bird products introduced through ***regulated trade***
3. Infected wild bird(s) introduced through ***migratory routes***

Each of these scenarios is associated with a different level of risk. There is high risk associated with unregulated and

illegal trade due to challenges related to proper testing and monitoring of smuggled birds and bird products. There is moderate risk associated with regulated trade. Import regulations and restrictions help protect the United States agricultural industry, but countries with more relaxed adherence may pose a threat. Legally imported infected products in these countries may be a source of the virus for subsequent spread to neighboring countries. Lastly, there is low risk associated with migratory wild birds. Although it is a debatable issue, there is some evidence suggesting that the role of migratory birds is limited, and other factors such as low survival of sick birds and active surveillance may exclude wild birds as sources of geographically disconnected outbreaks.

Activities and Reports

- **511 H5N1 rRT-PCR tests** since March, 2007; No positives
- **113 egg inoculations** for flu and Exotic Newcastle viruses since April, 2007; One positive (not H5N1)
- **Infection control training** administered to first responders

Dead Bird Reporting

ADDL is currently testing select bird species for avian influenza including poultry, waterfowl, and shorebirds. If you observe abnormally increased deaths in these species, please contact us at **1-888-551-INFO (4636)** or fill out the Dead Bird Reporting Form at sdbirdflu.com.

Birds for testing must be dead less than 24 hours and in good condition.

DO NOT touch dead birds unless necessary. If it is necessary to move them, wear gloves and protective eyewear, double bag the birds, and wash hands immediately with soap and warm water.



FLU:Pandemic/Bird
Plan. Prepare. Protect.
County of San Diego